



## State of Maryland

### Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor –, Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee –  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee**

**Thursday, February 10, 2011, 1:00 P.M.**

**3 West, Miller Senate Building**

**Budget Hearings – DHMH – Mental Hygiene Administration**

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of full funding of the Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) FY 2012 budget. **My name is Robert Pender; I am the Co - Chair of the State and federally mandated Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/ P.L. 102-321 Planning Council.** This council, referred to as the Joint Council, is composed of consumers, family members of persons with psychiatric disabilities, mental health professionals, provider organizations, advocacy organizations, representatives of other State agencies, and other interested citizens. The Joint Council, which meets monthly with MHA leadership, assists in the development and review of the State Mental Health Plan and Maryland's Mental Health Block Grant application.

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**c/o Mental Hygiene Administration**

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**



## **State of Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council**

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor –, Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

*House Appropriations Committee  
House Health and Human Resources Subcommittee  
Monday, February 14, 2011, 3:00 P.M.  
Room 150 House Office Building  
Budget Hearings – DHMH – Mental Hygiene Administration*

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of full funding of the Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) FY 2012 budget. **My name is Anita Solomon; I am a member of the State and federally mandated Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/ P.L. 102-321 Planning Council.** This council, referred to as the Joint Council, is composed of consumers, family members of persons with psychiatric disabilities, mental health professionals, provider organizations, advocacy organizations, representatives of other State agencies, and other interested citizens. The Joint Council, which meets monthly with MHA leadership, assists in the development and review of the State Mental Health Plan and Maryland's Mental Health Block Grant application.

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**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

**The Council supports the FY 2012 budget.** Each year, Maryland's public mental health system (PMHS) provides mental health services to a growing number of citizens, which often prevent more costly hospitalization, incarceration, disruption of work, education, and even loss of life. This budget will allow maintaining adequate, quality mental health services to an estimated 121,000 individuals. The previous level of funding may not provide enough resources to serve projected increases in numbers of persons with mental illness in our state, with increasing Medicaid enrollment and improved access with health care reform. The PMHS service utilization is monitored, serving more individuals while maintaining the average cost of services per consumer.

**On behalf of the Advisory Council, I am here today to urge you to maintain access to mental health care and resist further cuts to mental health services.** Any additional budget cuts will severely limit access to services for people with serious mental illness, particularly for individuals who are uninsured and who have relied on state-only funding to obtain access to care. Cuts to community services would drive up utilization of higher cost emergency room and inpatient services.

Additionally, we would like to present our perspectives on developments that are helping to improve and transform the current system:

- **Continued funding for peer support activities in Maryland's Wellness and Recovery Centers** as well as state hospital facilities and development of additional community resources to allow placement of individuals currently in state facilities.
- **Continued support of early prevention initiatives for children** to eliminate costly services later in life; support for implementation of the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Waiver.

- We further **support the work of the MHA and the local Core Service Agencies.**
- We continue the Joint Council's advocacy for **interagency efforts to develop a range of housing and residential options to meet the critical needs for affordable housing for consumers** seeking to advance from facilities towards independence and recovery.
- We continue to support the **implementation of evidence-based practices** in mental health care through the partnership of MHA and academia, which has produced significant results. Through innovative service delivery, recovery is possible for an increasing number of individuals who want nothing more than to become productive members of society.

The Maryland Joint Council, along with many other mental advocacy groups, strongly **supports The Lorraine Sheehan Health & Community Services Act of 2011 which will raise over \$215.6 million in new revenue** including funding directly **supporting Mental Health Care** and Medicaid Trust Fund to address Alcohol and disability related issues in Maryland.

In closing, **the Joint Council urges you to support full funding for the Mental Hygiene Administration community and hospital systems.**

**Attachment:**  
Joint Council Membership List

### **The Joint Council Membership List**

This membership information has been updated as of January 2010

#### **THE MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Membership</b>	<b>Agency or Organization</b>
M. Sue Diehl, Chair	Citizen Advocate	
Robert Pender, Vice Chair	Citizen Advocate	
Richard Blair	Police	Washington County Office of the Sheriff
Mike Finkle	Consumer Advocate	On Our Own of Maryland
Joshana Goga	Medical Profession	
Livia Pazourek	Family Member/Adult	
Charles Reifsnider	Consumer Advocate	
Anita Solomon	Provider of Mental Health Services	

#### **THE PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Membership</b>	<b>Agency or Organization</b>
Sarah Burns, Coordinator	Consumer Advocate	
Sharon Lipford, Coordinator	Core Service Agency Representative	Maryland Association of Core Service Agencies
Lynn Albizo	Citizen Advocate	
Carol Allenza	Family Advocate	MD Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health
Terezie Bohrer	Advocacy Group Representative	Mental Health Association
Tracee E. Bryant	Advocacy Group Representative	The Black Mental Health Alliance
Peter Cohen	State Employee	Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration
Herb Cromwell	Mental Health Provider Organization	Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland
Catherine Drake	State Employee	Division of Rehabilitation Services
Kate Farinholt	Advocacy Group Representative	National Alliance on Mental Illness

**PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL – CONTINUED**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Membership</b>	<b>Agency or Organization</b>
Vira Froehlinger	State Employee	Maryland Department of Education
A. Scott Gibson	Consumer Advocate	
Geraldine Gray	Family Member/Adult	
Diane C. Herr	State Employee	Medical Assistance, Office of Health Services
Julia Jerscheid	Consumer Advocate	
Cindy Kauffman	State Employee	Developmental Disabilities Administration
Michael J. Lang	Consumer Advocate	
George Lipman	Judicial System	
Phoenix Liss	State Employee	Maryland Department of Aging
Dan Martin	Advocacy Group Representative	Mental Health Assoc. of Maryland, Inc.
Cynthia Petion	State Employee	Mental Hygiene Administration
Cindy Rafferty	State Employee	Department of Housing and Community Development
Linda J. Raines	Advocacy Group Representative	Mental Health Association of Maryland, Inc
James Reinsel	State Employee	Maryland Department of Disabilities
Sarah Rhine	Advocacy Group Representative	Maryland Disability Law Center
Michelle Rigsby	Family Member, Child/Adolescent	
Sheryl Sparer	Consumer Advocate	
Jane Walker	Family Advocate	MD Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health
Kathleen Ward	State Employee	Department of Human Resources, Adult Services
Della Williams	State Employee	Department of Human Resources – Social Services Administration
Carol Zahm	State Employee	Department of Juvenile Services